

What's New in the MPDC

APRIL 9, 2001

REDUCED OVERTIME COSTS, INCREASED PATROLS ARE GOALS OF NEW COURT REFORM EFFORT

The MPDC and Office of Corporation Counsel this week announced a major new effort to reduce police overtime costs, make more officers available for community patrols and improve the quality of incident and arrest reporting for a variety of criminal cases in DC. The pilot project, known as Papering Reform 2001, eliminates some of the administrative duties currently required of police officers that contribute to court overtime costs. For example, officers in some cases will be able to swear to charges in their district station and not have to appear in person before a prosecutor prior a charging decision being made. The pilot project covers a selected group of misdemeanor "quality of life" offenses and traffic charges in the First, Third and Fifth police districts, with plans are to expand the effort District-wide. Read the news release about Papering Reform 2001 at:

Issues in the management of resources in the DC criminal justice system, including problems with excessive court overtime costs, have been the subject of recent research by the Council for Court Excellence. For more information about the group's work visit:

www.courtexcellence.org

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

CHIEF ADDRESSES COURT OVERTIME, OFFENSIVE E-MAILS DURING HOUSE TESTIMONY

The MPDC is working to reduce court overtime costs and to discipline officers who exchanged offensive e-mails or engaged in biased policing, Chief Ramsey told members of the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday. In testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on DC, the Chief described the ongoing efforts to rebuild the MPDC, reduce crime and implement community policing. He also laid out the challenges facing the Department, in particular the task of restoring the community's trust in light of the offensive e-mails sent by some MPDC officers. Promising "zero tolerance for intolerance," the Chief told House members that the Department is aggressively investigating two years' worth of messages, and will severely punish those who have engaged in biased policing or other forms of misconduct. To read the Chief's full written statement to the subcommittee, click on:

For other statements and announcements concerning the e-mail matter, visit:

www.mpdc.org

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

UPCOMING: "ASK THE CHIEF" ON WTOP

On Thursday, April 12, from 10-11 am, ask Chief Ramsey your questions about public safety, community policing and other issues facing the MPDC. It's his monthly appearance on WTOP radio's "Ask the Chief" program. You can e-mail questions ahead of time by going to:

www.wtopnews.com

RED-LIGHT CAMERA PROGRAM TO EXPAND; MPDC SEEKS RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS

Building on the success of its red-light camera program, the MPDC plans to add as many as 10 new camera locations over the next few months. The Department is in the process of identifying and validating high-risk intersections that could benefit from this traffic safety technology. To ensure community input into the process, the MPDC is welcoming recommendations from those who live and drive through the District. To recommend a location for possible installation of a red-light camera, send an e-mail (Subject Line: "Suggested Location for a Red Light Camera") to:

mpdc_org@excite.com

The District's red-light camera program has been in operation since August 1999. Since then, the program has contributed to a 59 percent reduction in red-light running violations at the 39 intersections currently equipped with cameras. For complete information about the program, including a map of current locations, go to:

*www.mpdc.org
(Click on Services & Programs)*

APRIL "CHAMPS" OF THE MPDC

Last December, Sixth District Officers Efrain Soto, Lonnie Moses and Adrain Johnson were working the "Border Patrol" along the boundary with Prince George's County. While in the 3900 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, the officer observed a vehicle with an improperly displayed tag, two occupants who weren't wearing seat belts, and the strong smell of suspected PCP. When the driver was unable to produce license and registration, he exited the vehicle and attempted to flee, making frequent movements to something in his waistband. The officers subdued the driver, and recovered a .38 caliber revolver and 20 small bags containing PCP. For their alert and brave performance, the three officers were honored this week during the April CHAMPS (Capitol Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) awards luncheon, held at the Washington Hilton. Soto was named Departmental Officer of the Month. Read the story of their heroics, along with those of the other April "CHAMPS," at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on Heroes)

MPDC TO AUCTION 53 FORFEITED VEHICLES

Beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 11, the MPDC will conduct a public auction of 53 forfeited vehicles. Inspections of the vehicles may be conducted between 8 and 9 that morning. The auction will take place at the Blue Plains Impoundment Lot. Cash, cashier's check or certified check are the only forms of payment that will be accepted, and only persons age 21 and older may purchase vehicles. For complete information about the vehicle auction, including the terms of sale, go to:

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kmorison_mpdc@excite.com.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
WWW.MPDC.ORG